(b) the number of ADCs brought under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(c) whether Government would consider giving more autonomy to these Councils?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) There are nineteen Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and all are located in the north Eastern States.

(b) Of the nineteen ADCs mentioned above, nine ADCs have been constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

(c) The National Commission on Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes recently notified under Article 339(1) of the Constitution of India will *inter alia*, study aspects of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and make suitable recommendations.

Global Meet of Parliamentarians and on AIDs/HIV

*203. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Parliamentarians from across the global met in Delhi in May this year to pledge concrete steps to address the challenges of AIDS/HIV epidemic, effectively;

(b) whether around 15,000 people are afflicted by the deadly disease everyday;

(c) if not, the estimated number of persons afflicted day after day in India; and

(d) the details of the declaration adopted in the global meet and the steps taken and being taken by Government in the light of the declaration?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) The International Policy makers Conference on HIV/AIDS was held in New Delhi on May 11th-12fth, 2002. Convened by Member of Parliament, Shri Kapil Sibal, this Conference was organized by the National AIDS Control Organization, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the International AIDS Vaccine. Initiative as part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by these organizations.

The Conference was convened to discuss and deliberate an action plan that address an entire range of issues relating to HIV and AIDS. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated this International Policy Makers Conference, Prominently attended by the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, by Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka as well as by Ministers representing both the central and the state governments. Parliamentarians from eight countries namely South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Thailand, Nepal, China and Brazil participated in the conference. Additionally, delegates and resource persons from several national and international organizations, NGOs and donor agencies participated.

2. UNAIDS and WHO have estimated that by the end of 2001, 40 million adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS around the world. During the year 2001 alone, an estimated 5 million people are estimated to have become infected. Each day of the year, about 15,000 people are estimated to be getting infected by this deadly virus.

3. In India, the estimates for HIV infections during 1998, 1999 and 2000 and 2001 have been 3.5 million, 3.7 million, 3.86 million 3.97 million respectively.

4. The presence of high-level political persons cutting across party lines at the International Policy Makers Conference demonstrated unambiguously, a strong political commitment within India at the highest level, cutting across party lines, to address HIV/AIDS in a meaningful manner. Resultantly, the Delhi Declaration given in the statement was adopted at the conclusion of the Conference (*See* below).

5. The main features of the Delhi declaration are: (i) to inform, educate, communicate and develop strategies, working closely with affected countries to promote effective AIDS prevention initiatives; (ii) to identify and begin to address those factors that make individuals particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, including underdevelopment, poverty, illiteracy, (iii) to promote social acceptance and respect for the dignity and rights of all people affected by HIV/AIDS and to oppose all forms of stigma and discrimination; (iv) to make every effort to provide progressively and in a sustainable manner, the highest attainable standard of treatment and care to people living with HIV/AIDS; (v) to support research and development of AIDS vaccines and other prevention technologies,

keeping in mind the pressing needs of the developing world; (vi) to create an enabling environment and build capacity among policy-maker in respective countries, and in particular, seek to strengthen legislation and regulatory systems and procedure; (vii) to mobilise political commitment at national, regional and global levels; and (viii) to promote collaborative efforts among governments, peoples representatives, private industry, international agencies and non-governmental organisations to move forward the commitments made in this Declaration.

Following the Conference, several initiatives are in hand:

1. A Working Group has been constituted to carry forward the recommendations emerging out of the Delhi Declaration and the conference. Both the National AIDS Control Organisation and the Indian Council of Medical Research representing government, are a part of this Working Group. The other members include members of the positive people's network, NGOs international agencies and the media. This Working Group will examine ways to address the recommendations that emerged from the four themes of the Conference, namely:

(i) Knowledge and behaviour change

(ii) The adoption of new technologies

(iii) Care and Treatment

(iv) Global resources

2. A sub-group has been formed to look at a comprehensive legislation on HIV/AIDS for India, that will typically address issues of stigma and discrimination, confidentiality in testing and counseling, trials for new treatment, and access to care, treatment, travel, insurance and employment. Members of this Sub-group include NGOs, a member of the positive person's network, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National AIDS Control organisation.

3. A website is on the anvil that will promote and facilitate interaction between national and international parliamentarians who participated in the Conference. Efforts are on to reach out to all parliamentarians within India, and also to a global network who are concerned about issues related to HIV/AIDS.

4. Govt. will also facilitate a Parliamentary forum, which would seek to both mobilise and sustain political support for at the national level and at State levels.

Government has already initiated some action listed in the Delhi Declaration, such as:

(i) People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) are being actively involved in policy-making forums like the National AIDS Committee, and also in the Executive Committee of the State AIDS Control Societies. They are encouraged to actively contribute towards design and implementation of project and programme in the Advisory committees.

(ii) NACO has formulated guidelines for "Drop in Centre" to encourage information sharing and networking of PLHAs among themselves. It is anticipated that this will create an enabling environment for dialogue and discussion with concerned stakeholders.

(iii) Government has initiated sensitisation programmes of panchayat raj institutions and these are expected to eliminate stigma and discrimination against PLHAs.

(iv) In order to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst vulnerable and marginalised population groups like Commercial Sex Workers (CSWS), Truck Drivers, Migrant Workers, Men having Sex with Men (MSM), Street Children, injecting Drug Users (IDUs), Jail Inmates, etc. 680 intervention projects are being implemented by NGOs that attempt to bring about behaviour change through peer education and the promotion of condom usage as well as treatment for sexually transmitted infections etc.

(v) Drugs for the treatment of opportunistic infections have been made available in public sector hospitals in the country for the management of HIV/AIDS patients. Besides, community care & support is being encouraged by establishing Community Care Centres through NGOs in different parts of the country. At present there are 25 such centres functioning in the country.

(vi) In order to address issues of access and equality in respect of treatment, Government is continually striving to bring about reductions in the high cost of anti-retro-viral drugs so that they become more affordable. Government has now exempted these drugs from custom & excise duties.

(vii) Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme is being up scaled in all districts in the high prevalence State in order to prevent transmission of HIV infection from infected mother to new borns.

(viii) Government has entered into an agreement with the International AIDS vaccine Initiative to accelerate research and development of an HIV vaccine specifically targeting the Indian Sub-type 'C' strain of HIV. A National Advisory board has been constituted to steer and address the dialogue involving the social, ethical and human rights issues related to vaccine research & development.

(ix) Government has formulated, approved and adopted the National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy and the National Blood Policy in order to ensure that we look at HIV and more AIDS as a developmental problem in addition to being a public health issue of paramount importance.

Statement

Delhi Declaration

PARLIAMENTARIANS' COMMITMENT TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT AIDS

May 11-12, 2002

The HIV/AIDS epidemic constitutes a global health emergency of unprecedented magnitude that impacts economic and soial development world-wide and in particular the developing world. to combat this global tragedy, a comprehensive strategy is needed to focus on issues including health-care, prevention, support, and treatment, within a legal framework designed to protect human rights. With 15,000 new HIV infections daily, there is no time to delay.

We, the undersigned, pledge to provide leadership and take concrete action to address the complexities and challenges presented by the epidemic, building on the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and other international, regional, and national agreement.†

We pledge to actively involve affected communities, including organisations of people living with HIV/AIDS in policy formulation and implementation.

†Resolution S-26/2 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on June 27, 2001.

We pledge to inform, educate, communicate and develop strategies, working closely with affected communities, to promote effective AIDS prevention initiatives.

We pledge to identify and begin to address those factors that make individuals particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, including underdevelopment, poverty, illiteracy, lack of empowerment of women, and all types of sexual exploitation.

We pledge to promote social acceptance and respect for the dignity and rights of all people affected by HIV/AIDS and to oppose all forms of stigma and discrimination.

We pledge to increase awareness and upgrade knowledge in societies inhabited by ignorance and deep seated cultural and social prejudices.

We pledge to make every effort to provide progressively and in a sustainable manner, the highest attainable standard of treatment and care to people living with HIV/AIDS.

We pledge to support research and development of AIDS vaccines and other prevention technologies, keeping in mind the pressing needs of the developing world.

We pledge to support the acceleration of scientific progress, adhering to the highest ethical standards in the research, development, delivery, and use to prevention technologies.

We pledge to work to build infrastructure and take other measures to ensure access to and effective use of affordable, life-saving AIDS treatment and future AIDS vaccines when they become available.

We pledge to create an enabling environment and build capacity among policy-makers in our respective countries, and in particular, seek to strengthen legislation and regulatory systems and procedures.

We pledge, as members of a global community, to strive for equitable distribution of essential resources needed to control the IDS epidemic and to enhance the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS.

We pledge to mobilise political commitment with peoples' representatives to propel a comprehensive response at national, regional and global levels.

We pledge to promote collaborative efforts among governments people' representatives, private industry, international agencies and non-governmental organisations to move forward the commitments made in this Declaration.

We pledge to put in place ongoing mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and review of the Delhi Declaration.

This declaration was issued at the International Policy-makers Conference on HIV/AIDS, May 2002 in New Delhi.

Decline in basic amenities in metropolitan cities

†*204. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the basic amenities and declining day by day in metropolitian cities due to continuous increase in the population;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made regarding the lack of drinking water, sanitation, schools, electricity and transportation in these cities; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) the number of metropolitan cities and urban agglomerations has increased from 23 in 1991 to 35 in 2001. The population in these cities has also grown from 70,996,726 in 1991 to 107,813,906 in 2001 as per the Census of India. Consequently, there has been pressure on the basic amenities in the Metropolitan Cities. The development of urban infrastructure by the cities have not kept pace with the growth in population.

As per Entry Nos. 6 & 17 of List II—State List of the Seventh Schedule of the constitution of India, public health, sanitation & water supply are the responsibility of the State Governments. Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of State Governments through policy formulation, technical guidance & Central assistance

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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